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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Ch/G

DATE: 6 December 1956

THRU : Chief, D/GG

FROM : Chief, GG/F

SUBJECT: Coordination of GG/F Paper on Collectivization of Chinese Agriculture

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1. In accordance with your oral request of 4 December 1956, I am submitting herewith a statement of the circumstances connected with our efforts to coordinate with A/F the paper done by [redacted] on Socio-Geographic Factors in the Collectivization of Agriculture in Communist China. It is not my purpose here to go into the substantive pros and cons surrounding the differences of opinion and interpretation between ourselves and A/F on the subject of the paper. [redacted] is currently preparing a statement on these substantive aspects. Rather, I propose here simply to record a chronological account of the rather unusual course of events connected with the "coordination" of this paper.

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2. The paper was originally conceived in the spring of 1956 as an article for use in an issue of the Geographic Intelligence Review. When I reviewed the draft in July, upon my return from area familiarization travel, and subsequently when I discussed the paper with [redacted] we had some misgivings concerning the suitability of the paper for MR use, based primarily on the feelings that the draft was too lengthy for appropriate use in the MR and that it needed some reworking to emphasize somewhat more the geographic and regional aspects of the problem.

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3. After reworking by [redacted], the focus of the paper was improved to a point that I felt it justified issuance as a geographic intelligence publication, although its length and scope made it clearly unsuitable for MR use. Accordingly, on 17 August 1956, I submitted Project Proposal 61.1466, proposing its issuance as a CIA/RR-G report. In the meantime, while awaiting approval of the Project Proposal, I suggested to [redacted] that he effect a working-level coordination with Agriculture Branch, Materials Division. This was done, and the paper was reviewed by [redacted] of Agriculture Branch during the period 22-24 August. [redacted] informally concurred in the paper, making no suggestions as to changes.

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4. The Project Proposal was approved by [REDACTED] Acting Ch/G, on 22 August. The AD/RR reviewed the proposal on 23 August and returned it unsigned, with written instructions to obtain "a consistent approach on this subject between D/GG effort and D/A/FE [REDACTED] effort."

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5. In compliance with the AD's instructions, [REDACTED] and I went to [REDACTED] office on 28 August, explained the nature of the paper, informed [REDACTED] of the AD's instructions, and left the draft of the paper with him for review. I assumed the next move was up to him.

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6. After waiting more than a reasonable length of time without hearing from [REDACTED] I called him on the morning of 16 October and arranged for [REDACTED] and myself to visit him that afternoon. In the course of the interview, it became apparent that there were certain differences of opinion and interpretation of the problem between the A/F approach and the GG/F approach. Rather than delve deeply into the differences at that time, [REDACTED] suggested that we wait about a week for the completion of the A/F draft of ORR Project 10.805, Trends in Planned Economic Development in Communist China, 1952-1962, which would include A/F's views on collectivization. We assumed that it was his intention to use this paper as a basis for discussion and comparison of the differing views in an attempt to arrive at a coordinated view, so we agreed to his proposal.

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7. More time passed without hearing from [REDACTED] Telephone calls to A/F elicited the information that the draft of Project 10.805 was not yet complete. Finally, on 15 November, I sent [REDACTED] a courteous but rather pointedly worded memorandum indicating that we wished to avoid any further delays, requesting return of the draft with A/F's specific comments, and stating that, unless we heard from him by 23 November we would assume that our paper had his concurrence and we would proceed with publication.

8. The A/F reaction to our 15 November memo was to prepare three and one-half pages of written criticism of [REDACTED] paper and to send it via Chief, Economic Research to Chief, Geographic Research Area on 26 November. The written A/F comments, thus, finally reached GG/F at 1400 hours on 29 November.

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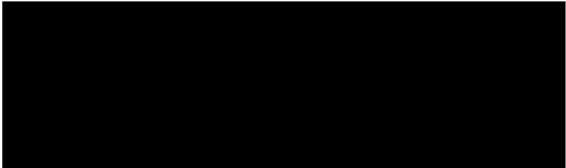
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9. At no time in the entire "coordination" effort did A/F take any initiative about calling GG/F or other wise indicate any intention to proceed with coordination on the face-to-face analyst level. The eventual reply from A/F was indirect, addressed to the Area level.

10. I do not propose to speculate as to the motives that prompted the bizarre behavior of A/F in "coordinating" this paper, but I am sure you will agree that the frustrating and unusual treatment that we encountered was not what we should expect from professional colleagues in ORR.

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